

## C l a i m s

1. A supple heating device (1), such as a heating blanket, heating pad or heated mattress pad, having at least one heater cord (3, 3') arranged on a base heating element (2), a connecting cable (5) for energy supply connected thereto via connecting means (10) which are insulated toward the outside, and a control circuit (6),

characterized in that

the connecting means (10) are combined into a connecting unit (4) which has a common support plate (4.1) and/or a common encapsulating element (4.3).

2. The device in accordance with claim 1,  
characterized in that

the connecting unit (4) is arranged on the base heating element (2) and is fixed in place by holding means (2.1).

3. The device in accordance with claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that

the support plate (4.1) is designed as a board with printed strip conductors and supports several connecting elements (10.1, 10.2, 10.3) of the connecting means (10), some of which are connected with an associated heating conductor (3.2, 3.4) and some with an associated lead (5.1, 5.2) of the connecting cable (5) and - to the extent it is provided - are connected with each other by strip conductors (4.12) for creating respective current paths.

4. The device in accordance with one of the preceding

claims,

characterized in that

the heater cord (3, 3') has two heating conductors (3.2, 3.4) which are connected at the one cord end (3.5) with associated leads (5.1, 5.2) of the connecting cable (5) and at the other cord end (3.6) are electrically connected with each other directly or via a rectifier arrangement (8) contained in the connecting unit (4).

5. The device in accordance with one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

a current safety fuse (9) included in the connecting unit is arranged in the supply current circuit (9).

6. The device in accordance with one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

the encapsulation element (4.3) is provided by encasing or by means of two put-together shell elements (4.31, 4.38).

7. The device in accordance with claim 6,

characterized in that

the encapsulating element (4.3) has at least one cord guidance device (4.21) formed thereon for the heater cords (3, 3'), and a cable guidance device (4.22) for the connecting cable (5) formed thereon.

8. The device in accordance with one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

the encapsulating element (4.3) is made of an elastic plastic material, at least in the area of the cord guidance device(s) (4.21) and/or of the cable guidance device (4.22), and is melt-resistant to at least 150° C, as well as flame-resistant and resistant to tensile strain.

9. The device in accordance with one of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that

the connecting means (10) are designed for inserting and clamping in place with electrical contact one or both heater cord ends 3.5, 3.6), and

on its side facing the connecting means (10), a cover element (4.38) has formed-out places, which work together with the connecting means (10) in such a way that the clamping in place takes place in the course of putting the shell elements (4.31, 4.38) together.

10. The device in accordance with one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

the connecting unit (4) is fixed in place on the base heating element (2) by fixing the associated connecting cable end and/or at least one cord end (3.5, 3.6) in place.